Special Issue: Domestic Action

COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 12, No. 12 July 27, 1972

FLOOD RELIEF—1972

WATER WADER. A Pennsylvania Army National Guard truck wades through a water-filled street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, carrying evacuees to high ground and safety. (PAARNG Photo by CWO2 Arthur Kramer)

DOMESTIC ACTION: Disaster Relief Centers

Defense Civil Preparedness Agency Is Focal Point

Federal, state, and local civil defense organizations were heavily engaged in disaster control and relief operations in the wake of Tropical Storm Agnes, John E. Davis, Director of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, said recently.

As part of the massive Federal assistance effort, Davis reported that the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA):

—Loaned 50 staff specialists from its headquarters and regional offices for disaster relief operations in four states;

—Loaned electrical generators and water pumping equipment from DCPA emergency stockpiles to stricken communities; and

—Was prepared to help civil defense units replace or repair facilities damaged or lost in the Agnes disaster.

The 50 DCPA staff specialists working in the disaster area served in Pennsylvania at Harrisburg, New Bloomfield, Chambersburg, Lock Haven, Pittston, Norristown, Pottsville, Reading, Lancaster, Carlisle, Wellsboro, Danville, Kingston, Pittsburgh, Huntingdon, Indiana (Indiana County) and Altoona. In Virginia, DCPA professionals were assigned to Richmond offices of the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP). In West Virginia, DCPA staff members worked in Charleston and Wheeling, and in Maryland, with the State Civil Defense agency at Pikesville and at the Baltimore Office of OEP.

The majority of DCPA personnel, Davis said, were called upon to set up and operate Federal "one-stop" disaster relief centers, but a number of them were on loan to the President's Office of Emergency Preparedness, and served as directors and acting directors of OEP regional offices or otherwise staffed OEP regional installations.

DCPA regional offices at Olney, Maryland, and Maynard, Massachusetts, were major Federal communications centers for gathering and evaluating disaster information, and expediting assistance in personnel and equipment.

Director Davis also reported that DCPA regional office specialists began a series of interviews with local civil defense officials in the storm area to determine if they were adequately equipped and staffed to cope with the disaster. "The lessons we learn from Agnes will be helpful as we assist other communities to prepare for emergencies of this kind," Davis said. He pointed out that the agency, in addition to its nuclear preparedness mission, has new authority to help communities plan for natural and other peacetime disasters.

The DCPA director predicted that many communities, spurred by the Agnes disaster, would now begin to assess their capabilities to cope with massive emergencies, and to look for means of improving those capabiliites.

He noted that DCPA's priority effort is an on-site assistance program in which federal and state experts help a community assess disaster threats and evaluate their emergency operations capabilities in coping with disasters.

Objective of the on-site assistance program is production of a comprehensive disaster operations plan for each community involved and an action plan for correcting deficiencies or providing resources which are lacking.

The action plan forms the basis for DCPA followup assistance to the local governments, and may include financial, technical, and planning assistance, and help in the form of donations of surplus federal equipment and loans of excess federal equipment designed for emergency purposes. DCPA can also provide grants of 50 per cent of the costs of building and equipping Emergency Operating Centers for local and state governments.

Army Is DoD Executive Agency

Secretary of the Army Robert F. Froehlke, relating to national disasters, says the U.S. Army and the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency have a similar problem: ". . . the public doesn't know what our missions are, or understands them. Both of us have to work harder to sell our missions to the public."

The Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, headed by John E. Davis, became a separate agency May 5. It was formerly known as the Office of Civil Defense of the Office, Secretary of the Army. It now reports directly to the Secretary of Defense.

In time of state or national emergency—"Tropical Storm Agnes" being a typical example—Defense organizations swing into action through the Army's Directorate of Military Support (DOMS). They include active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces—a combined massive force of men and equipment to aid civilian communities in time of need.

On the other side, before the emergency occurs, the Department of Defense Civil Preparedness Agency "is responsible for Federal guidance, and financial, technical and planning assistance to the states and communities to improve their capabilities for coping with natural disasters, other peacetime emergencies and effect of nuclear attack."

Mr. Froehlke stressed that he is the DoD Executive Agent for providing military assistance to civil government in time of disaster. In this role, he coordinates aid which may be rendered by each of the Military Departments and other DoD elements to communities whose resources are overwhelmed by a sudden emergency.

The Army Secretary made his statements June 13 at the annual conference of the National Association of State Civil Defense Directors at San Antonio, Texas.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

A publication of the Department of Defense intended to provide official information to commanders and key personnel on matters related to Defense policies and interests, and to create better understanding and teamwork within the Department of Defense.

Published weekly by the American Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD (M&RA).

Reproduction of content is authorized.

Pennsylvania Hard Hit

'In-Place' Army-Air Force Guard Mobilizes

Special to Commander's Digest
From the Pennsylvania National Guard

The rains came . . . hard . . . heavy . . . and long. Tropical storm Agnes, aptly nicknamed "Hurricane Agony," caused massive flooding in five Eastern States. Rampaging rivers and streams chose new routes of travel, creating new subdivisions and carrying a sea of mud into homes and businesses. Property damage ran into the billions of dollars. Through it all, the National Guard was in the thick of the disaster.

Guard aircraft filled the air. Air Guard units were busy in three states. The 109th Tactical Airlift Group, New York, was especially industrious, flying over 100 sorties in which they transported some 289 passengers and over 562,000 pounds of cargo. Units in North Carolina and Pennsylvania flew similar missions, flying passengers, food and medical supplies to communities.

Army Guard helicopters will long be remembered for their contribution. Crews flew from dawn to dusk, and, in many cases, after dark, carrying badly needed supplies to stranded people. They will be most remembered for plucking families off rooftops and saving lives by carrying both doctors and patients to hospitals. Army Guard pilots were quoted as saying that flying during the bad weather, along with the tricky landing spots, was far worse than they had seen in Vietnam.

Annual training for some Army Guardsmen rapidly became reality as the flood waters rose. Several other Guardsmen were placed on state active duty. Over 13,000 Army Guardsmen were on duty in five states during the peak of the crisis. Pennsylvania was the hardest hit by the floods. The number of Guardsmen there numbered over six thousand. Army troops performed a variety of missions while on duty in the five states. Much of their work centered around flood control, rescue operations, security and medical support. What was not reported in the facts and figures was the amount of good will and moral support Guardsmen gave folks stricken by the floods.

GRATEFUL FOR HELP. Thankful civilians at Jerry Mills, Pennsylvania, surround a Pennsylvania Army National Guard helicopter, piloted by Captain Jerry Robbins. Robbins and his crew had brought supplies to—and evacuated refugees from—the town, hard hit by winds and rains from Tropical Storm Agnes. (Official PAARNG Photo by P. Vannucci)

The concept of the citizen/soldier was brought vividly to fore during the crisis. The quantity and quality of Guard support speaks for itself. Hundreds of lives were saved by Guardsmen. In New York especially, where there was no ground transportation, bleary-eyed helicopter pilots lost count of the number of people they rescued, whether the victims were on top of a leaning building or stricken by a heart attack.

Guardsmen extended themselves in order to do more than was required. And Joe Citizen suddenly became more aware of the National Guardsman, who previously had been just the guy down the block or in the next office. And it is this kind of tribute, sometimes vocal, sometimes silent, that really signifies the importance of the Guardsmen, the Nation's citizen/soldiers of today.

During the recent flood disaster, over 95 Pennsylvania National Guard units, comprising more than 6,000 officers and men, were activated to aid the victims of the wrath of Tropical Storm Agnes.

The Guardsmen were sent to several hundred communities in the Commonwealth. The Guard, in many small towns and cities, provided the only means of

(See GUARDSMEN, Page 16)

Established By Secretary Laird

DoD Domestic Action Program Has Many Facets

Domestic Action has been defined by the Department of Defense as "that aggregation of efforts, programs, and projects within the Department which contribute to the constructive development of our society." As such it includes individual, unit, Service, and Defense-wide activities that help alleviate local, regional, and national social problems.

What is the scope of Domestic Action?

The program encompasses six general areas:

—**Procurement** — Governmental contractual awards to minority businesses. In Fiscal Year 1971, some 157 contracts, totalling $28 million, were awarded to minority businesses.

—**Manpower**—Projects Transition and Referral, job-related training and employment programs to help Service members find a meaningful place when they return to civilian life.

—**Transfer of Technical Knowledge**—Project MAST (Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic) in which military helicopters are used to evacuate civilian accident victims is a good example. By the end of 1971, some 983 patients had been evacuated in response to requests from local authorities.

—**Assets**—Transfer Defense plants, facilities and equipment to the civilian sector of the economy when installations are closed or relocated.

—**Community Relations**—Programs to provide recreation and training to young people. During the summer of 1971, more than 2.7 million young people attended recreational, educational, and cultural activities on or near military installations across the country. Those figures include a substantial number of residential and day camps for disadvantaged youths from inner cities.

—**Equal Opportunity**—Insuring equal rights and opportunities for Service personnel and employes. One significant step in that direction was the recent establishment of the Defense Race Relations institute at Patrick AFB, Florida.

When Was the Program Established?

It was formally established in April 1969 by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird. At the same time, he established the DoD Domestic Action Council, chaired by Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Roger T. Kelley, to direct and coordinate Domestic Action Programs of the Military Departments and major Defense agencies. Cooperation between the military and local communities goes back, of course, to the beginning of American history. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers has historically been the construction agency in related work for rivers and harbors.

What Are the Basic Guidelines?

Domestic Action activities are carried out in the Department of Defense under these general constraints:

—Department of Defense funds cannot be used in support of Domestic Action activities;

—Military installations may engage in Domestic Action projects which do not affect the primary mission of the unit involved; and

—Each project must be initiated, planned and operated by the local community; that is, a community interested in a cooperative project must make the approach, and be ready to assume the burden of continuity.

DoD officials have found that working through local, state and federal Governmental agencies who have the responsibility for "people" programs is a "must." These include such Federal agencies as Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), ACTION Agency, as well as the many state and community organizations.

What is the Future of the Program?

Secretary of Defense Laird said in December 1971, "As we move from a war to a peace posture, there will be increased opportunities for more innovative and challenging programs. . . . There is a definitive limit to the number of young people we can support in our community relations programs. . . . Perhaps our emphasis from this point on should be directed to improving the quality of the ongoing programs."

What Are the Official Channels for the Domestic Action Program?

Information concerning general program or policy matters can be obtained from the Special Assistant for Domestic Action, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (M&RA), Washington, D.C. 20301.

Information concerning specific programs can be obtained from the Domestic Action offices of respective DoD components with operating responsibilities for these activities:

Domestic Action Officer
Department of the Army
Attn: ODCS PER-PS&T
Washington, D.C. 20310

Domestic Action Officer
Department of the Navy
Attn: CNO (OP-09BC)
Washington, D.C. 20350

Domestic Action Officer
Department of the Air Force
Attn: AF/DPXOM
Washington, D.C. 20330

Commandant of the Marine Corps
Attn: Domestic Action
Officer (AO1D)
Washington, D.C. 20380

Domestic Action Officer
Defense Supply Agency
Attn: DSAH-WS
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Va. 22314

U.S. Army trucks, on a Domestic Action mission of mercy, wend their way through the debris of a flooded area. (Official U.S. Army photo)

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Domestic Action

Q—What kind of support can be given to Domestic Action programs?

A—Manpower and physical resources may be used to support them, but local commanders must determine their availability, based upon military requirements.

Q—How are funds provided?

A—As DoD is prohibited from using its money for this program, all funds must be obtained from other federal, state or local sources, public or private.

Q—What kind of projects do other federal agencies support financially?

A—Youth opportunities and recreation programs are funded by OEO, VISTA and the Department of Agriculture (Operation Breadbasket); education and training by the individual states in cooperation with HEW, including such programs as "Vocational Education Program," "Upward Bound," and "Operation Headstart;" work performing, transportation, economic and social improvement through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs such as its "Model Cities;" and the Department of Labor's "Job Corps." Assistance in juvenile crime prevention or corrective measures is provided by the Department of Justice.

Q—How is a local Domestic Action program launched?

A—A request must be made to the commanding officer of the nearest military installation. Then the program must be coordinated at the local level and implemented through federal, state or community agencies.

Q—How is surplus property obtained for a Domestic Action program?

A—There are four ways. They are:

(1) Surplus property may be purchased from the Department of Defense at Defense surplus sales offices throughout the country. Specific questions regarding location of these offices and procedures for sales should be directed to:

DoD Surplus Sales
P.O. Box 1370
Battle Creek, Michigan 49016;

(2) Surplus property can be purchased from the nearest Property Disposal Office of the General Services Administration (GSA);

(3) Eligible tax-exempt or tax-supported educational, health, and civil defense organizations may receive donations from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), Office of Surplus Property Utilization, Washington, D.C. 20201, or through the HEW Regional Representative o State Director. For general information regarding donation of federal surplus personal property, write to appropriate GSA Regional Office (GSA Pamphlet No. 69-9591) or to Director, Utilization and Donation Division, Office of Personal Property Disposal, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20405; and

(4) Property loans may be obtained from certain Federal agencies, e.g., OEO and HEW. (See question and answer three above for examples of agency responsibilities.)

Q—What kind of Defense technical information is available to the civilian sector and where can it be obtained?

A—(1) All reports resulting from Defense research and development which are releasable to the public are available through the Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22151.

(2) Military specifications and standards can be obtained from the Naval Printing and Publications Service Office, 4th Naval District, Building 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19111.

(3) Releasable information regarding ongoing and previously performed research and technology efforts is available from the Smithsonian Scientific Information Exchange (SIE), 1730 "M" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Q—Can military transportation be used for Domestic Action recreation activities?

A—Private or commercial transportation facilities should be used whenever practical. Should this approach fail, it may be possible to obtain military trucks or buses for programs which require transportation to or from a military installation.

Based on: DoD Directive 5030.37 May 21, 1970, "DoD Support of Domestic Action Programs."

'Task Force Aqua'

Guardsmen Solve Virginia Water Woes During Flood

Just two weeks before, Virginia Army National Guardsmen were demonstrating how their water purification unit operated for the benefit of the state's Governor, A. Linwood Holton.

As if to give the finished product an "official stamp of approval," the Virginia chief executive sipped the clear liquid and said it tasted good.

That was at Camp A. P. Hill on June 14, when Holton was visiting state Guard engineer units who were participating in summer training exercises.

By June 24, the water purification units were operating again, only then it was not for training.

Central Virginia had been devastated by record-breaking floodwaters spawned by Tropical Storm Agnes, and on June 23 the rushing waters in the James River started pouring into the city's water filtration plant. The plant was knocked out of commission, and city officials knew the water supply in the reservoirs would not last more than 48 hours.

Virginia Army National Guardsmen combined with officials of the city and in the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, and later with regular U.S. Army units from Ft. Lee, Ft. Eustis and Ft. Belvoir, to keep drinking water supplied to about a half-million people in the Richmond metropolitan area.

The city contracted with Chesterfield County (south of Richmond) to keep water supplied to all city residents living on the south side of the James River, and tank trucks ferried water from the south side to Richmond's East End after a water tank ran dry.

But a large portion of the area's population—all of the rest of the city outside its East End—and nearly all Henrico County residents in the north and west portions of the county (who receive city water)—began to lose water during the evening of June 24. The rest of the taps ran dry during the next evening.

The 150,000 to 200,000 persons who lost home drinking water did not go thirsty, however, thanks primarily to the efforts of the state Guardsmen who provided the initial purified drinking water supply over the weekend.

Two water purification units were set up in Byrd Park, a short distance away from the nearly dried-up reservoir, and the Guardsmen began to purify water from a small lake.

The city established six public water distribution points, and Henrico set up some of its own too. The water from the purification units was shipped to the distribution points, where citizens could get their supply, either in containers they brought themselves or in plastic jugs provided by local dairies.

At first, the citizens stayed away from the water points, and local authorities surmised that they either had hoarded some water before the crisis hit, or else the city water was lasting longer than had been expected.

During the day of June 24, the purification units had to stop operating temporarily, as the storage tanks were filled to capacity, and no great demand was being placed on the water.

As the weekend concluded, however, the need for water increased, and regular Army units were called in to begin purifying additional water. "Task Force Aqua" was established, containing Army personnel from three Virginia installations, and purification units soon were operating at Bryan Park in the city's North Side.

City officials opened up three more distribution points in the East End, and the National Guard and Army water was soon being shipped all across the area north of the river.

Early in the morning of June 26, the

Military District of Washington troops and civilian employes fill sandbags at Fort McNair. (Official U.S. Army Photo)

city was able to pump highly chlorinated water into the system for use in cooking and for sanitary purposes. But the use of the purified water supplied by the Guard and the Army was urged, since the chlorinated water required 10 minutes of boiling before it was suitable to drink.

The city finally was able to restore pure water in the system by June 29, and the purification units ceased operations after nearly a week of service.

In all, more than 1,700 state Guardsmen were called up for emergency duty throughout the state, of whom more than 1,300 were placed on duty in Richmond.

Six hundred national disaster workers and thousands of Red Cross volunteers were pushing the relief operation with all possible speed, he said. Over 149,000 persons had been sheltered by the Red Cross in the affected states, and the number of victims fed exceeded 250,000.

Guard officials said it was the largest emergency callup ever for a state natural disaster.

Along with water purification assistance, the Guardsmen helped local and state authorities in traffic control, civil security and evacuation of persons threatened by the rising floodwaters.

Members of state engineer, armor, infantry, artillery, cavalry and military police units from all across Virginia were pressed into service, and 15 helicopters also were in use.

The majority of the Guardsmen stationed in Richmond were used for traffic control and civil security, and local police officials credit the presence of the Guardsmen for keeping looting and vandalism to a minimum.

Only one attempted looting incident was reported during the time the Guardsmen were on duty, despite the fact that hundreds of businesses and stores were vacated, and many windows were broken by the floodwaters.

The Guardsmen who reported in Richmond on June 21 and June 22 were relieved of duty by June 28, receiving high praise from state and local officials for a job well done. A back-up contingent of 225 artillery and military police Guardsmen from the Norfolk area reported for duty to help augment the police patrols in the flooded areas on June 28, and they were relieved less than two days later.

DOMESTIC ACTION: Flood Relief

SBA Loans Available

VA Details Flood Aid to Veterans

The Veterans Administration has outlined disaster relief measures for veterans whose homes were damaged or destroyed by tropical storm "Agnes."

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Donald E. Johnson noted that VA closely cooperates with federal, state and local officials in aiding disaster victims.

"We will do everything we can to help," Johnson assured veterans who suffered losses from the storm.

He said VA is taking these steps for veterans:

—Providing counseling and assistance in obtaining repair or reconstruction loans from the Small Business Administration or other federal, state or local agencies;

—Reinstating wherever possible GI loan benefits of veterans whose properties were totally destroyed, so they may obtain other guaranteed or direct loans;

—Extending reasonable leniency to veterans with VA loans in default because of a disaster, and encouraging private mortgage lenders to do the same; and

—Making supplemental loans to veterans, where economically feasible, for repairs on uninsured, partially destroyed properties obtained with loans held by VA.

VA also may guarantee loans by private lenders to eligible veterans who have not used their GI loan benefits to buy or construct homes, or repair damaged properties, subject to certain lien requirements. Also, VA can make direct loans for the same purposes in areas where that type of loan is authorized, it was pointed out.

Veterans or survivors whose properties, obtained through VA assistance, were damaged or destroyed by Tropical Storm Agnes or other disasters should contact their nearest VA office for assistance.

STREET BECOMES RIVER. Two Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, youngsters watch an amphibious armored personnel carrier of the Pennsylvania National Guard tow a stranded boat to safety. (Official PAARNG Photo)

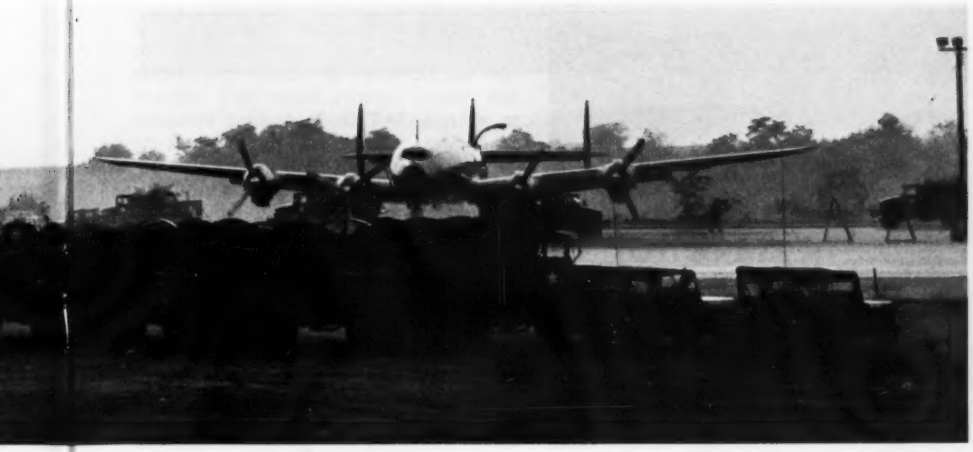
Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard units combine forces to airlift—and then road transport

Domestic Action Flood He

THAT SMARTS! Ronald Bromsburg 4, of West Wyoming, Pennsylvania, winces as Pennsylvania Army National Guard Dr. (Captain) Charles A. Krivenko (left) and medical Specialist Fifth Class Joseph T. Newell take three stitches in his knee, injured during the recent floods there. (Official PAARNG Photo by CW2 Arthur Kramer)

POTABLE WATER. The floods, spawned by Tropical Storm Agnes, destroyed many sources of drinking water. U.S. military units provided potable water supplies at numerous stations throughout the flood-stricken areas during the emergency. (Official U.S Army Photo)

ON GU
served th
protectin

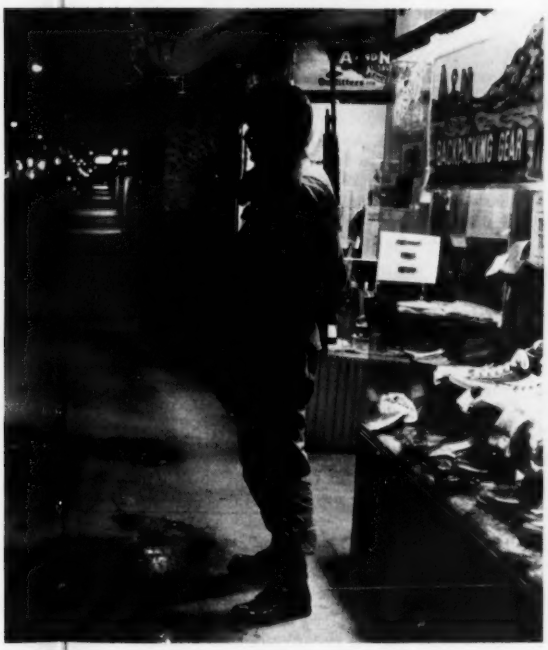


transport—relief supplies to the striken Wilkes-Barre area.
(Official PAANG Photo by MSgt. John Lucci)

Help in Pictures

A Commanders Digest Photo Feature

HAPPINESS is the safety of a Lakehurst Naval Air Station helicopter for this lady and her pet cat, both rescued by HS-15 personnel.
(Official U.S. Navy Photo)



ON GUARD. Thousands of National Guardsmen and Reserves served their communities as sentries during the flood emergency, protecting lives and property. (Official U.S. Army Photo)

COMMON EFFORT. U.S. Army soldiers join civilians in a massive, post-flood cleanup task.
(Official U.S. Army Photo)

Sped to Four Disasters

Airborne Emergency Relief Spans Country

When four disasters hit widely separated parts of the United States during June, Air Force personnel and equipment rescued some 78 people, and airlifted over 770 tons of emergency relief supplies. Food, clothing, bedding, pumps, generators, medical supplies and, in one case, a large whale boat—to be used to fight fires in the flooded Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania area—were airlifted by Air Force active, Reserve and Air National Guard units from various parts of the United States to Rapid City, South Dakota, and the disaster areas in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York.

ANOTHER SAVE. U.S. Air Force TSgt Jerry Decker waits in chest-level water, just under the tree branches, in a flooded river as a hovering Air Force helicopter rescues the last of two victims of the recent flash floods in Phoenix, Arizona, where over 60 people were saved by the Air Force.
(U.S. Air Force Photo by A1c John Roberts)

In Rapid City, where flood waters destroyed over 30 per cent of the city, personnel and equipment from Ellsworth Air Force Base and Air National Guard units assisted the stricken city. Over 3,200 personnel and 300 vehicles were placed at the disposal of the city. Twelve helicopters from Ellsworth flew 49 sorties and were credited with 14 rescues. Three Ellsworth sergeants died while attempting to rescue people from the raging flood waters. Air Force aircraft flew in some 120 tons of clothing and food donated from other areas around the United States.

Flood rescue operations in the form of tactical airlift to help the stricken areas of Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York began Saturday, June 24, when the Airlift Control Center at Headquarters, Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, was tasked to transport water purification units, and medical supplies to the affected areas.

TAC C-130 aircraft from Langley AFB, Virginia; Pope AFB, North Carolina; Forbes AFB, Kansas; and Dyess AFB, Texas, began airlifting water purification units from various parts of the United States to the flood areas. Nine of the units were taken to Richmond, Virginia, early Saturday afternoon. Several of the Richmond-bound units were flown in from Hunter AFB, Georgia. Throughout the weekend, other water purification units were airlifted to Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from Richards-Gebaur AFB, Missouri; Terre Haute, Indiana; and Moline, Illinois. A C-130 from Dyess AFB, Texas, picked up a water purification unit at Bergstrom AFB, Texas, and flew it to Harrisburg.

A purification unit consists of several collapsible units and tanks and weighs approximately 3,000 pounds. To airlift a complete system, two C-130s are required.

HOISTED. A. U.S. Air Force HH-43 rescue helicopter, assigned to Detachment 5, 42nd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Williams AFB, Arizona, lifts two young boys from a flood-swollen river near Phoenix, Arizona. (Official U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Ray Agee)

By June 26, TAC C-130s had airlifted a total of 110.9 tons of rescue equipment; 56 flights had been flown by TAC crews. TAC crews were alerted of possible additional rescue relief flights. Food stuffs, 45,000 pounds in all, were flown from Boston's Logan Airport to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area. An additional 70 thousand pounds of food was airlifted from Washington, D.C., National Airport to the same area, as were a load of cots from La Guardia to Elmira, New York.

C-130 crews at the bases participating in the rescue efforts were on a two-hour standby notice in the event more airlift was required.

When the TAC Airlift Control Center at Langley was notified of the rescue op-

eration by the Office of Emergency Preparedness in Washington, C-130s were immediately tasked to carry out the operation. The airlift control center has complete control of all TAC C-130s at all times at all TAC bases throughout the country.

Within four hours of initiation, a C-130 was on the ground at Scranton with a water purification unit on board. Other C-130s were right behind that aircraft with more equipment to aid the stricken towns and cities.

While the crews and ground support personnel did not encounter any undue hardships with any of their mercy missions, there were several occasions at Scranton when the only communications with the C-130 on the ground was via radio from the airlift control center. Personnel in the center talked with the people helping in the rescue effort there and directed their actions. TAC crews were supported by civilians in unloading the aircraft.

Just as the Rapid City operation was getting under control, Air Force units in the Rio Vista area of California assisted in rescue operations created when a levee broke in that area. Flooding affected some 15 to 20 square miles. Rescue aircraft from the 42nd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Hamilton Air Force Base, California, were called upon to assist civilian authorities. An HC-130 rescue aircraft was launched to act as an airborne command and control center. Two HH-53 "Jolly Green Giants" helicopters joined the HC-130 over the affected area. Working together, they searched and directed rescue efforts in the flooded area. In addition, the unit was credited with rescuing two people.

At almost the same time, the Scottsdale-Phoenix, Arizona, area had four inches of rain and tornado-like winds. Normally dry, dusty desert washes became torrents, carrying cars, trucks, debris and people. Air Rescue units from Luke and Williams AFBs assisted local authorities. Four Air Force helicopters rescued over 60 people in flash flood areas.

In addition to the rescue efforts of the helicopters, men and vehicles from Luke Air Force Base were involved in rescue operations on the ground. In less than two hours after the request was received, more than 100 men and 17 heavy duty trucks left the base by convoy for the flood area.

CHIEF NURSE OF THE AIR FORCE. Brigadier General Ethel A. Hoefle, one of two women generals in the Air Force, talks to a Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, flood victim who was being treated by members of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 103rd Aeromedical Evacuation Flight and 111th Tactical Air Control Dispensary. (PAARNG Photo by CW2 Arthur Kramer)

AIR FORCE DISASTER ASSISTANCE
JUNE 1972

AREA	AIRLIFT	AIR RESCUE
Rapid City, SD	120 tons	14
Rio Vista Area	—	2
Phoenix, AZ	—	60
Va., Md., Pa., NY Areas	650 tons	2
Total	770 tons	78

Meanwhile Tropical Storm Agnes was making her fury felt on the East Coast of the United States. Sweeping up through Florida, Agnes caused flooding in almost every state she touched. Tyndall AFB in Florida housed and fed over 600 personnel. Later in the week, when Agnes made herself felt in the Northeastern states, Air Force units airlifted supplies and personnel into the disaster areas. Some 240 sorties were flown by Air Force aircraft, including planes from the Tactical Air Command, Military Airlift Command, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units to the stricken areas in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. Over 650 tons of food, bedding, clothing, pumps, medical items and other associated relief supplies were flown to the flooded areas.

DOMESTIC ACTION: U.S. Navy

From Lakehurst NAS, New Jersey

Navy Scrambles Choppers To Pennsylvania

The great flood of 1972 has receded now, and the people of Pottstown, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, have returned to their homes—or what was left of them—and begun the heartbreaking task of cleaning up.

Helicopter crews assigned to Navy Helicopter Squadrons HC-2, HS-15 and HS-75, the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment (MARTD) and the Army Aviation Detachment at the Lakehurst, N.J., Naval Air Station have long since returned to their home base.

The events of June 22-25 are now history; but what history!

It began with a call to HC-2 the evening of June 22 from the Pottstown, Pennsylvania, disaster control coordinator. Flood waters were rising and the residents there needed assistance—fast. Within an hour after receiving the call, HC-2 had two helicopters on the way.

The lead helicopter was piloted by Navy Commander Mike Marriott, Squadron Executive Officer. The flight during the storm was difficult enough, but on arrival in Pottstown, additional hazards were encountered. "I have to say that in the 15 years that I've been flying. I have never encountered tougher flying conditions," Commander Marriott said. "There were high-tension power lines and tall trees, all of which had to be spotted in the dark. And I think that everybody in Pottstown has a 40-foot television antenna," he continued.

Pilots and crews of HC-2, flying around the clock and using their search lights to spot hazards and rescue victims alike, flew up and down flooded streets, rescuing people from roof tops, trees and second-story windows. Time after time, aircrewmen were lowered to help people into the rescue nets. Those needing help often had to signal with candles, since most of the city had no power; that proved to be a blessing in disguise. Electric short circuiting caused many fires in the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas. Some dangers were unintentionally caused by the rescue victims.

Commander Marriott related one case where his crew lowered a net to a man stranded on the roof of his home. After grabbing the line, the man hesitated as if he had forgotten something. He decided to go back into the house, but he evidently didn't want the helo to leave him there.

"I guess he thought that if he tied us down, we couldn't go away," Commander Marriott said. "He wrapped the rescue cable around his chimney before going back inside." A gust of wind came along, buffeting the helo, causing it to give a hard yank on the line. Fortunately, the chimney came down, not the helo. After checking the line and the hoist, Commander Marriott resumed his hover and got the man out.

Friday morning, HC-2 dispatched two more helos to the Pottstown area. Rescue operations continued at a feverish pitch during the morning. Navy Lieutenant Dick Childers rescued 50 persons in three hours. One pilot stated that it was "like going down a row of wheat." People who had declined being rescued the night before had by then gone through a night without electricity or drinking water, and the flood waters were still rising. Now they wanted to get out.

Lieutenant Childers picked them up, took them to a nearby highway, landed, turned his victims over to local disaster control people, then took off to rescue more. By late morning, pilots reported that the Pottstown area had been "picked pretty clean" of flood victims.

A helo from HS-15 was dispatched to Philadelphia to help the searchers there look for a policeman who reportedly had been swept from a boat. At Lakehurst Naval Air Station, things seemed to be winding down.

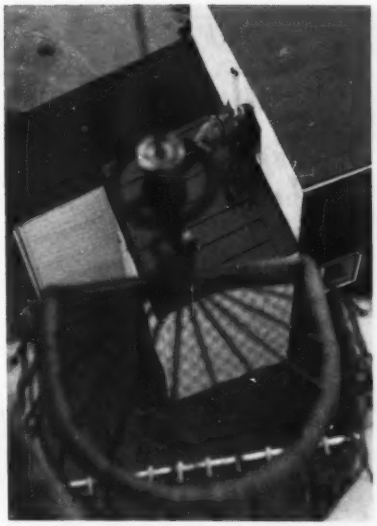
Meanwhile, however, on the Susquehanna River, another drama was unfolding. Waters there were rising at an alarming rate. Sandbags were being used to reinforce the dikes in the Wilkes-Barre, Scranton area. An H-53 helicopter, attached to the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment (MARTD) at Lakehurst was dispatched to fly needed sandbags from the Philadelphia Naval Base and Fort Dix, New Jersey, to Wilkes-Barre. The helo flew in 12,000 sandbags, but the waters of the Susquehanna were rising faster than the volun-

ON STATION. Navy helicopter crewmen search flooded areas of Pennsylvania for stranded victims. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

teers manning the dike could stack them. Lakehurst Navy helos from HC-2, HS-15, HS-75, and the Marine and the Army Aviation Detachments, were dispatched to rescue flood victims caught in the sudden onslaught of water. By 2 p.m., every Navy Lakehurst bird capable of being launched was in the air and headed for Wilkes-Barre. The biggest evacuation for the worst flood in U.S. history was underway and Navy, Marine Corps and Army helicopters from Lakehurst were in the thick of it.

Navy Commander Dan Bilicki, Commanding Officer of HC-2, was one of the first helicopter pilots to arrive at the disaster control center, set up at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Municipal Airport at Avoca, Pennsylvania, located about halfway between the two cities. At first, because of the abrupt nature of the disaster, there was some confusion at the center. Helos landed, ready to assist, but no one knew for sure where they were needed most. Commander Bilicki began to get things organized. He divided the area into zones, assigning helos to cover sections of the city and search for victims. After the shortest of delays, the operation got underway.

By Sunday night, the worst was over and Navy Lakehurst birds began coming home to roost. Bone-tired, bleary-eyed, unshaven crews stumbled from their choppers to get some well-earned rest. Some of them had worked 28 hours straight to evacuate people.



READY FOR RESCUE. A rescue net is lowered to two stranded flood victims who took refuge atop a Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, building. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

There were some records set. At HC-2, for example, in one 84-hour period, they had rescued or transferred 611 persons, or more than a third of the number they have rescued in their 25-year history. There is no way that the actions of every squadron and every man in them can be covered in a single story. There were stories told by men who were so exhausted that they were literally falling asleep while trying to talk. And those were only a few, told to one man. Some will never be known except by the men who experienced them.

There were other stories, of the men who worked tirelessly, not actually rescuing people, but keeping the helos flying. Mechanics, gro. ndhandlers—each had a job to do. Pilots were lavish in their praise of each and every one of them. In an ironic twist of fate, there was one HS-15 airman who lost everything in the flood except his bed and dresser, while squadron mates were involved in the rescue operations. Fortunately, he, his wife and baby were saved.

As the days pass and the figures trickle in, there will undoubtedly be more statistics for the record books. Presently, the totals are as follows:

Cargo (food, water, medical supplies) 167,309 pounds. Persons rescued or evacuated, 1,790. Plus 11 dogs, 13 cats, a raccoon and two ducks.

History will record 1972—the year of the flood—as a major disaster, and the U.S. Navy and its sister services were there, as they have been in the past and will be in the future, to lend a helping hand.

DOMESTIC ACTION: American Red Cross

Flood Disaster Relief Costs Estimated at $15 Million

More than 50,000 families in the flood-ravaged Mid-Atlantic states will require individual assistance from the American Red Cross, and the cost of the mammoth relief operation is now expected to exceed $15 million.

The new assessment of Tropical Storm Agnes' record flooding was made July 3 by American Red Cross President George M. Elsey, as the number of flood victims who received Red Cross emergency mass care in the sodden disaster corridor from the Carolinas to New York's southern tier passed the quarter million mark.

Even as the organization moved into high gear with its individual family assistance program, aimed at bringing flood victims back together again in family units as fast as possible, the Red Cross President said that because of the savage and widespread nature of the destruction, 91 emergency shelters were still operating in Pennsylvania and New York for families whose homes are gone.

"Some of these shelters will have to be maintained for a long time," he stated. "We are trying to help families find new or temporary quarters until their homes or apartments are livable again, but relocating the thousands of victims will not be an easy task. They and many others will need supplemental help from the Red Cross in resuming normal living."

The Red Cross is helping families to replace clothing and essential household furnishings, assisting with minor home repairs and medical costs, Mr. Elsey said in a television news interview. The Red Cross is paying rent on new living quarters for flood victims who need such aid, and is replacing eye glasses, dentures, artificial limbs and braces, prescription drugs and giving other health and medical assistance.

Mr. Elsey said disaster workers estimate that 30,000 families will need this extra help from the Red Cross in Pennsylvania, as will some 16,000 families in New York, and another 4,000 families in flooded sections of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Red Cross already has spent or committed $5 million in providing emergency relief, he stated, and the estimated $15 million cost of flood assistance is more than one-third higher than the current $10 million Red Cross disaster relief campaign.

U.S. Coast Guard

1,000 Persons Rescued In Wake of Tropical Storm

Almost 150 Coast Guardsmen from stations throughout the mid-Atlantic Third Coast Guard District were rushed into the flood-stricken Susquehannah River areas of Eastern and Central Pennsylvania over the June 24 weekend and rescued an estimated 1,000 stranded, injured and frightened victims left in the wake of tropical storm "Agnes."

The officers and men were drawn from nearly 30 stations in the district and worked in the areas of Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, both cities on the Susquehanna. The largest contingent of Coast Guardsmen was at Wilkes-Barre.

The first Coast Guardsmen to reach any flooded area were those of five district boating safety detachments, who set up a command post in Harrisburg at 4 p. m. Friday, June 23. Later, two helicopters arrived at Harrisburg and operated out of the nearby New Cumberland Army Depot. Throughout the weekend, they were the only Coast Guard forces in that region.

COAST GUARD RESCUE BOAT. One of the Third U.S. Coast Guard District boating safety detachments from the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, area goes about the business of rescuing people. The yacht in the background was also assisting. (Official U.S. Coast Guard Photo)

Gearing Up

The Coast Guard began mobilizing its Wilkes-Barre rescue force on Friday night when rescue controllers at Third District Headquarters, Governors Island, New York, began calling district units to see what smallboats and how many men could be mustered.

By early Saturday morning, replies were coming in. From New London, Connecticut, to Cape May and Gloucester City, New Jersey, including Long Island, men in trucks and cars were underway. Trucks either towed smallboats on trailers or when no trailer was available, the boats were loaded into larger trucks or lashed to the roofs of them. From Sandy Hook, New Jersey, for example, two "Boston whalers" were dispatched in the back of a three-ton closed van and the crew were Coast Guardsmen from three stations under the command of a group office located there.

From Governors Island, three Boston whalers, two skiffs and five outboard motors were sent, along with 14 men in two trucks and two cars. From Cape May, men left in a station wagon with a 12-footer on its roof and towing a trailerized 14-footer. Two men left Moriches, Long Island, Coast Guard Station with two 14-footers in the back of a large covered truck and other district units responded similarly to get their equipment to the scene.

The District's air stations, one at Brooklyn, New York, and the other at Cape May, set up relief crews for their helicopters so that the aircraft were almost constantly in the area. A Brooklyn helo was still flying at Wilkes-Barre when most of the other rescue units were released from flood duty on Monday, June 26. Aircraft from both stations flew a combined total of 85 hours in 46 sorties or individual flights.

At its peak, the flood relief force numbered four helicopters, two from Brooklyn and two from Cape May, and 37 smallboats from nearly 30 district units. A Coast Guard cutter based at

Gloucester City, New Jersey, the buoytender "Red Oak" even sent a 14-foot whaler and crew.

At Work

The forces began to arrive at Wilkes-Barre around noon and by 3 p. m., nearly all were there. Coast Guard liaison with local authorities and civil defense officials was handled by two Coast Guard Reserve officers, Lieutenant Commander Raymond Condo, executive officer of a local Coast Guard Reserve training unit, and one of his officers, Lieutenant Joseph E. Barnicki. Both officers alternately relieved each other as coordinator.

At Harrisburg, Coast Guard Lieutenant Joseph Tamanolis, assistant director of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for that region, served in the same capacity and was aided by Chief Warrant Officer Allen E. Detwiler, commanding officer of the district boating safety team.

Coast Guard rescue efforts at Harrisburg were aided by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, who, as volunteers, used their own boats in rescue work.

Flood relief included everything. Helicopters and smallboats evacuated people, moved the injured, transported officials and moved flood-relief supplies. Medical teams of doctors and nurses were taken quickly from one place to another by helicopter, and frequently the teams ministered to the injured, infirmed or aged in flight.

Experiences

According to Lieutenant Tamanolis, rescue work at Harrisburg presented its problems.

"Trash and all sorts of things are floating in the water," he commented at one point, "and rescue operations have gotten very frustrating in every circumstance."

Petty Officer Second Class John Caliguere, a boating detachment member said, "We saw this little dog on the roof of a house. Scared and shaking, the poor thing really got excited when he saw us coming around his area. Guess he hadn't eaten in a week."

Another boating detachment member, Petty Officer Second Class Bruce Millis recalled after picking up a 93-year old woman from a flooded house, "She gladly put on a life jacket and just sat quietly as we rowed her to safety."

A HEART-ATTACK VICTIM is rushed to an awaiting ambulance after being rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Throughout the flood period, medical teams of doctors and nurses were taken quickly from one place to another by helicopter; frequently while airborne, the teams ministered to the injured, infirmed, or aged.
(Official U.S. Coast Guard Photo by JO2 M. Kneeland)

THE ROAD TO NOWHERE. A highway somewhere near Wilkes-Barre abruptly ends—victim of Tropical Storm Agnes. Because so many roads were washed out, everything from small boats to helicopters were used to carry the evacuation of stranded people.
(Official U.S. Coast Guard Photo)

GUARDSMEN

(Continued from Page 3)

communication, transportation and relief from outlying areas.

Helicopters, trucks, boats and jeeps were used to evacuate many families from rising flood waters. Rescue missions continued for several days, as Guardsmen moved flood victims from their inundated homes to emergency evacuation shelters. Many National Guard armories, as well as civilian facilities, were used to house evacuees.

In addition to rescue operations, National Guard units aided local and state law enforcement authorities with security. Many Guard units patrolled streets in flood-ravaged areas on a 24-hour basis.

Many Guardsmen themselves suffered severe losses from the flood as waterways overflowed their banks, turning city streets into raging rivers. Other Guardsmen from units in areas least affected by the flood were sent to those areas suffering the greatest devastation.

National Guard helicopter pilots were in the air for nine hours a day at times during the first 48 hours of the disaster, flying rescue relief evacuation missions. Chairs, hardwood floors and cots replaced comfortable beds for many of the Guardsmen. Sleep came in shifts—when there was time.

Wife of DoD Secretary Visits Dakota Disaster

Mrs. Melvin R. Laird, in her capacity as Volunteer Assistant to the National Chairman of Volunteers of the American Red Cross, wife of the Secretary of Defense, made a two-day visit to the Rapid City, South Dakota, disaster area in June. She was accompanied by Mr. George Elsey, President of the American Red Cross; John E. Davis, Director of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency and a former Governor of South Dakota; and Enso Bighnatti, National Director of the Disaster Services of the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Laird observed the activities of Red Cross volunteer workers assisting the people of the Rapid City area during that disaster.

DOMESTIC ACTION: U.S. Marine Corps

Vertical Help Sent to Two States

Marines and equipment from Quantico, Virginia, were involved in rescue and relief operations of victims from flooding waters by heavy rains in late June.

Twelve Marines with trucks, blankets and medical equipment were sent to nearby Falmouth, Virginia, where they aided civilian authorities in the evacuation of victims forced from their homes by the rising waters.

An additional 50 Marines with trucks, and supplies were sent to Manassas, Virginia, to assist in evacuation operations there.

Evacuation operations were also conducted by Quantico-based Marines at Fredericksburg, Virginia, where flood water forced residents from their homes.

Helicopters from the Air Station were airborne to aid Stafford County Red Cross operations and assist the Prince William County Sheriff's Department and county authorities.

The Marine helicopters rescued a number of civilian victims in various parts of Stafford and Prince William Counties. One operation included the evacuation of 26 persons, including a Boy Scout troop, that had become stranded on the Rappahannock River.

The group was given food and temporary lodging at the Quantico Marine Corps Base while they awaited aid from civilian agencies.

In addition to assigned operations from civilian authorities, the helicopters conducted search patterns looking for other stranded victims.

Light damage was caused by the heavy rains on the Marine base itself. A fallen tree had to be removed from Fuller Road in order to keep the base open.

A swollen stream cut the road from the main base to nearby Camp Upshur but no injuries or extensive damage was reported.

Two families were temporarily stranded on a small island at Lunga Reservoir but the campers were discovered to be safe as the flood waters began to recede.

A temporary evacuation point was set up at 'H' Barracks for Marine families that had to evacuate their off-base homes.

All told, nine Marine helicopters from Quantico flew more than 50 hours of flood-related missions. Seventy Marines on the ground helped evacuate civilians, distributed relief supplies and performed cleanup operations in flooded areas. Quantico Marines accounted for 125 civilians rescued; they also acted as safety guards to keep civilians off flooded bridges and other dangerous areas.

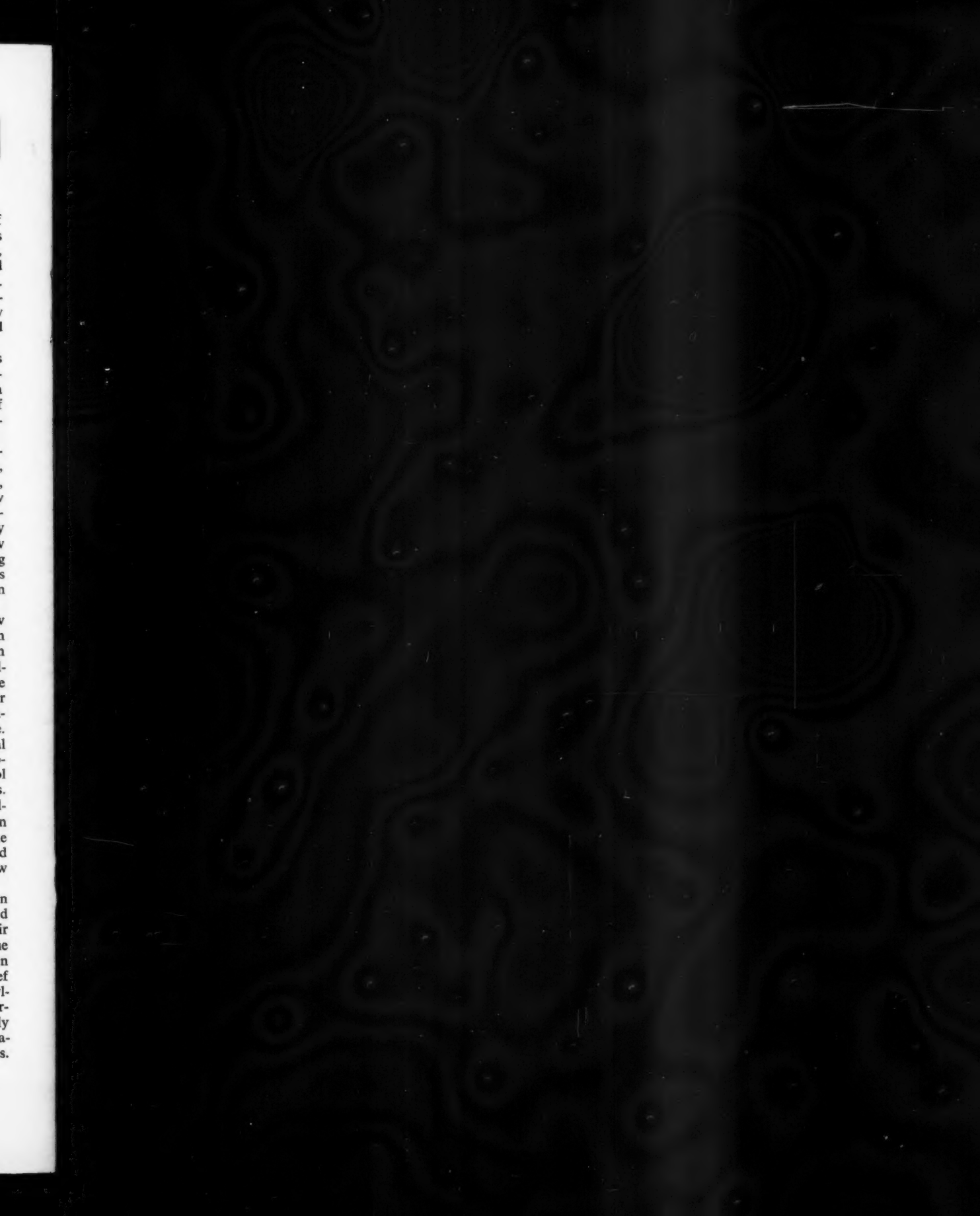
A Marine Corps helicopter and its crew from the New River, North Carolina, Marine Corps Air Station played a small part in the rescue and disaster relief operations that were conducted in flood-ravaged Pennsylvania.

A CH-46 from HMM-264, with Captain Robert P. McLaughlin flying as pilot, Captain Ronald W. Morosky as copilot, and Corporal Wayne E. Schafer as crew chief, left the New River Air Station Friday morning for a normal cross-country hop to Davidson Army Base, a few miles from Quantico, Virginia. Desiring to get more flight training, the pilots decided to swing north on their return trip Sunday.

Filing a flight plan for the Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, Naval Air Station outside Philadelphia, they left Davidson early Sunday afternoon. Arriving at Willow Grove at 3 p.m., their services were requested to fly supplies to a disaster control center in Wilkes-Barre, approximately 100 miles north of Willow Grove.

Loading up some 4,000 lbs. of medical and emergency relief supplies, the chopper cleared the Willow Grove control center for military disaster relief efforts.

Landing at Wilkes-Barre and off-loading their cargo, the new River airmen on-loaded 18 civilian nurses from the emergency hospital in Wilkes-Barre, and 1,000 lbs. of gear and returned to Willow Grove.

The Fourth Marine Corps District in Philadelphia reported that CH-43 and CH-53 helicopters from the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment at the Lakehust, New Jersey, Naval Air Station flew 64 sorties in support of flood relief assistance in that state and in Pennsylvania. More than 200 refugees were carried; cargo transported totaled nearly 60,000 pounds. Fifteen Lakehurst Marines worked in the flood relief operations.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $2.00 additional for foreign mailing.
☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 513/187/X-3